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NORTH CAROLINA



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. COMPARE 1949 MILK PRODUCTION WITH 1948.
2. WHAT IS THE U. S. PARITY RATIO FOR FEBRUARY?
3. DISCUSS FEBRUARY 1 STOCKS OF LEAF TOBACCO.
4. GIVE NORTH CAROLINA PRICES RECEIVED FOR FEBRUARY.
5. HOW MUCH DID TOTAL LIVESTOCK NUMBERS DECREASE?
6. WHAT FARM PRODUCTS SOLD BELOW PARITY IN FEBRUARY?
7. DID PRICES PAID BY FARMERS DECREASE FROM SEPT. TO DEC?
8. WHAT ARE TWO MAJOR FACTORS IN INCREASED EGG PRODUCTION?
9. COMPARE JAN. 1, 1950 LIVESTOCK VALUES WITH A YEAR EARLIER.
10. WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR EARLY TRUCK CROPS?

No. 56

RALEIGH, N. C.

MARCH 6, 1950

AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND OTHER CURRENT ITEMS

LEAF TOBACCO STOCKS SHOW LITTLE CHANGE

Stocks of all types of leaf tobacco owned by dealers and manufacturers in the United States and Puerto Rico totaled 3,879 million pounds (farm-sales-weight) on January 1, 1950, compared with 3,875 million pounds January 1, 1949.

Prior to January 1 about 3/4 of the 1949 crop, estimated at 1,990 million pounds, was in stocks. This includes all of the flue-cured crop and over one-half of the Burley production.

Marketing of the 1949 flue-cured tobacco crop of 1,112 million pounds was completed in December. Stocks of flue-cured tobacco as of January 1, 1950, totaled 1,993 million pounds which was 30 million less than stocks a year earlier.

Exports of flue-cured leaf during the last half of 1949 exceeded exports for the same period of the previous year. July - December 1949 exports of flue-cured were about 303 million pounds (farm-sales-weight), compared with 255 during the corresponding period of 1948.

Burley tobacco auction markets opened in late November. Sales to January 1 totaled 305 million pounds, or over one-half the estimated 1949 production. Burley leaf stocks as of January 1, 1950, were 1,140 million pounds or about 28 million above holdings the previous year.

CATTLE NUMBERS INCREASE AS HOG NUMBERS DECLINE

Total livestock numbers on farms in North Carolina, January 1, 1950, excluding chickens and turkeys, were only .2 percent less than on hand January 1, 1949. However, the total value of livestock on hand, excluding chickens and turkeys on January 1 this year was 8.4 percent or \$13,651,000 less than the value of livestock on farms January 1, 1949. The average value per head for all major kinds of livestock showed declines, except for all sheep for which a slight increase in value developed. There was

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HENS DOUBLE WINTER OUTPUT

The modern hen is a much more efficient egg producer than was her ancestor of 25 years ago. Even more important to poultrymen is the fact that the hens of today lay about twice as many eggs during the fall and winter months as the hens of 1925.

Most of the dramatic increase in egg production over the last quarter century, is due to the fact that it now takes only two hens to lay the eggs that three hens produced in 1925. The Nation's laying flock averaged 340,202,000 hens in 1949, only 9 percent larger than 25 years ago.

But total egg production jumped 61 percent to 56,236,000,000 eggs. In other words, 85 percent of the increase in egg production resulted from a 47 percent higher rate of lay per bird and only 15 percent from the increase in the number of layers.

Not only are hens producing many more eggs today than a quarter of a century ago, but the seasonal pattern of production has changed drastically. Although more eggs were laid in every month of 1949 than in 1925, the largest increases came during the winter.

Several factors are responsible for
(Continued on Page 3)

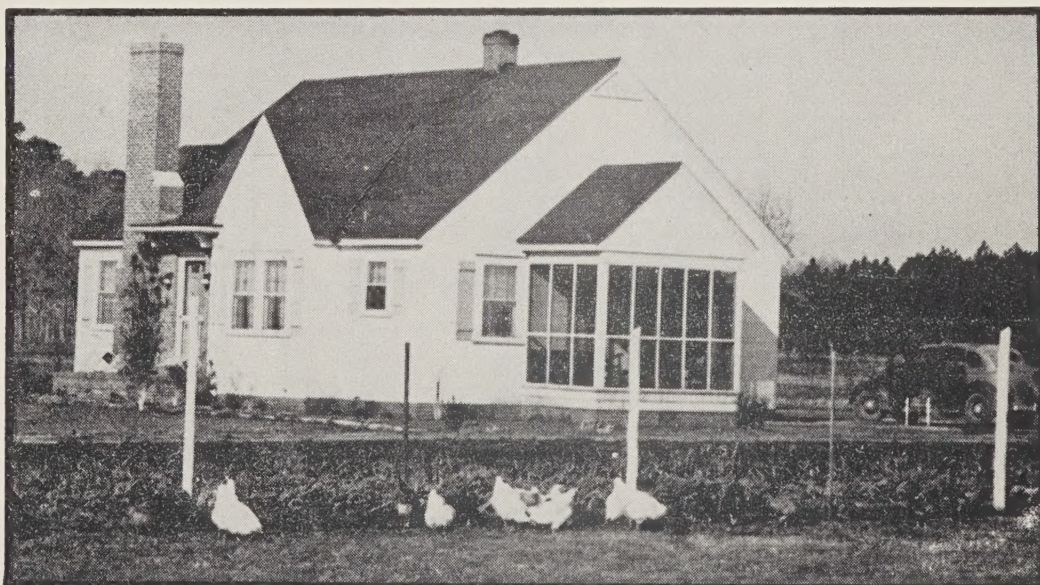
CONDITIONS GENERALLY FAVORABLE FOR EARLY TRUCK CROPS

In North Carolina weather conditions during the first half of February were favorable and unusually mild in the early truck crop producing areas. The preparation of land in this area is far ahead of schedule.

Reports from growers indicate that the late spring cabbage crop is considerably earlier than normal, and continues to make fairly rapid progress. For the most part stands are adequate and the condition of the crop remains good. However, in a few localized areas the leaves on a portion of the crop are beginning to turn white as a result of frost damage received earlier in the season. Farmers fear that running-up may result although the total extent of damage is not yet known. This condition, however, is not widespread. If weather conditions continue mild, light cutting should be underway by April 1 in the earliest areas. Preliminary acreage reports indicate a crop of 2,700 acres, or about 29 percent greater than the 1949 crop.

Planting of Irish potatoes is underway in several sections of the State, particularly in Currituck County.

THE TREND IS TOWARD MORE AND BETTER RURAL HOUSING



N. C. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 1 POINT

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets increased 1 point during the month ending February 15. The index as of February 15 was 219. The same index in February of 1949 was 239 and 260 in February of 1948. Hence, during the last two years the index of prices received by farmers has decreased 16 percent.

The increase of 1 point in the "All Farm Products" index was the result of slight increases in prices received for most grains, meat animals, and sweetpotatoes.

The grains index increased 3 points as the result of increased prices for corn, wheat, and barley. Oats decreased one cent per bushel and rye decreased four cents per bushel.

The cotton and cottonseed index increased 1 point as the result of an increase of 2 points in the price of cotton.

The meat animals index increased from 317 in January to 321 in February. Hogs, veal calves and lambs increased in price while beef cattle and sheep were unchanged in price.

The poultry index dropped from 190 as of January 15 to 176 as of February 15. This decrease was caused by a decrease of four and half cents in the average price of eggs. The poultry index one year ago was 225 or 23 percent higher than the present index.

The dairy products index decreased two points due to a drop of four tenths of a cent per quart in the price of retail milk. Wholesale milk and other dairy products were unchanged in price.

The miscellaneous commodity group increased 2 points as the result of higher prices for soybeans, cowpeas and sweetpotatoes.

The ratio of prices received by North Carolina farmers to prices paid by U. S. farmers at 88 percent remained the same as January. The ratio on February 15, 1949 was 98 percent. Hence, prices received by farmers have decreased relatively more than have prices paid by farmers.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS FEBRUARY 15, 1950

WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		U. S.
		JAN. 15 1950	FEB. 15 1950	FEB. 15 1950
		- DOLLARS -		
CORN.....	BU.	1.14	1.19	1.16
WHEAT.....	BU.	2.05	2.08	1.93
OATS.....	BU.	.90	.89	.706
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.15	1.19	1.09
RYE.....	BU.	2.04	2.00	1.19
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	1.91	1.96	2.12
COWPEAS.....	BU.	3.35	3.70	3.41
PEANUTS.....	LB.	.118	.117	.106
COTTON.....	LB.	.275	.277	.275
COTTONSEED.....	TON	44.00	44.00	43.60
WOOL.....	LB.	.49	.49	.487
HOGS.....	CWT.	15.30	15.70	16.60
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT.	17.00	17.00	20.40
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT.	22.90	23.80	24.60
SHEEP.....	CWT.	10.00	10.00	10.20
LAMBS.....	CWT.	21.20	22.70	22.80
MILK COWS.....	HEAD	126.00	130.00	184.00
CHICKENS.....	LB.	.218	.225	.218
EGGS.....	DOZ.	.37	.325	.296
MILK, WHLSE.....	CWT.	5.00 <i>b</i> /	4.90 <i>a</i> /	3.95 <i>a</i> /
RETAIL.....	QT.	.20	.196	.183
BUTTER.....	LB.	.53	.53	.573
BUTTERFAT.....	LB.	.54	.54	.631
HAY, ALL BALED...	TON	27.50	28.00	21.50
POTATOES.....	BU.	1.65	1.65	1.83
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	2.10	2.20	2.21
APPLES COMMERCIAL	BU.	2.20	2.15	1.78
LESPEDEZA SEED...	CWT.	8.40	8.30	7.30
KOREAN.....	CWT.	6.10	6.30	-
KOBE.....	CWT.	10.40	10.00	-
COM. & TENN. 76.	CWT.	17.80	17.00	-
SERICEA.....	CWT.	18.30	18.00	-

a Preliminary
b Revised

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS
(N.C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 = 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	JAN. 15 1950	FEB. 15 1950	FEB. 15 1949	FEB. 15 1948	FEB. 15 1947
NORTH CAROLINA INDEX NUMBERS					
ALL FARM PRODUCTS..	218	219	239	260	248
COTTON & COTTONSEED	214	215	241	263	261
GRAINS.....	163	166	177	226	192
MEAT ANIMALS.....	317	321	339	347	310
POULTRY.....	190	176	225	267	229
DAIRY PRODUCTS.....	223	221	236	239	223
TOBACCO.....	256	-	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS.....	232	234	235	247	227
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID..	88	88	98	105	112
UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS					
PRICES RECEIVED....	235	237	258	279	262
PRICES PAID	249	248	245	248	221
INTEREST & TAXES..					
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID..	94	96	105	112	119

a. Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. prices paid.

MEAT ANIMALS RAISE UNITED STATES PRICES RECEIVED
INDEX, PARITY INDEX DOWN 1 POINT

For the second consecutive month, the Index of Prices Received by Farmers rose 2 points and in mid-February reached 237 percent of the January 1910-December 1914 base. The index on February 15 was 7 percent below a year ago.

Higher prices for hogs, beef cattle, veal calves, lambs and cotton were mainly responsible for the rise in the Prices Received Index. Among commodities with lower prices in mid-February than a month earlier were truck crops, dairy products, and eggs.

Meanwhile, slightly lower prices for feed, clothing, and farm supplies lowered the Parity Index (Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Wage Rates) 1 point to 248--about 2 percent below a year ago.

The Parity Ratio (ratio of the Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid by Farmers Including Interest, Taxes, and Wage Rates) was 96, up 2 points from last month, and 5 points below a year ago.

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES		AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	JAN. 15 1950	FEB. 15 1950	JAN. 15 1950	FEB. 15 1950	JAN. 15 1950	FEB. 15 1950
- DOLLARS -						
COTTON, LB.....	.264	.275	.298	.299	89	92
WHEAT, BU.....	1.92	1.93	2.13	2.13	90	91
CORN, BU.....	1.15	1.16	1.55	1.55	74	75
OATS, BU.....	.705	.706	.914	.914 <i>d</i>	77	77
BARLEY, BU.....	1.10	1.09	1.42	1.42 <i>d</i>	77	77
RYE, BU.....	1.25	1.19	1.65	1.65 <i>d</i>	-	-
BEEF CATTLE, CWT.	19.40	20.40	16.90	16.80	115	121
HOGS, CWT.....	15.10	16.60	18.70	18.60	81	89
LAMBS, CWT.....	21.60	22.80	18.60	18.60	116	123
CHICKENS, LB....	.203	.218	.284	.283	71	77
EGGS, DOZ.....	.313	.296	.492	.492 <i>d</i>	62	66 <i>a</i>
MILK, WHLSE, CWT.	3.83 <i>c</i>	3.85 <i>b</i>	4.31	4.29	89 <i>c</i>	90

a. Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices

b. Preliminary

c. Revised

d. Transitional parity, 95 percent of parity price computed under formula in use prior to January 1, 1950.

With egg prices down, feeding was not so favorable. Egg-feed ratio in January was lowest for the month in 27 years.

AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARMERS FOR SPECIFIED FOOD ITEMS WITH COMPARISONS, 1948-49

ITEMS	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		SEPT. 15 1949	DEC. 15 1949	DEC. 15 1948	SEPT. 15 1949	DEC. 15 1949	DEC. 15 1948
- CENTS -							
SUGAR	PER 10 LB.	96.0	98.0	95.0	97.7	98.7	96.7
FLOUR	PER 25 LB.	190.0	190.0	200.0	192.0	194.0	196.0
BREAD, WHITE	PER LB.	14.8	15.1	15.4	14.1	14.2	14.1
CORN MEAL	PER LB.	5.2	5.1	6.0	5.71	5.59	6.39
ROLLED OATS, PACKAGED	PER LB.	14.0	13.8	15.2	12.3	12.1	13.0
RICE	PER LB.	18.4	17.3	19.7	18.1	16.4	19.0
BACON, SLICED	PER LB.	60.0	58.0	72.0	60.6	56.7	71.0
ROUND STEAK	PER LB.	78.0	77.0	78.0	77.6	75.2	77.6
PORK CHOPS	PER LB.	70.0	53.0	62.0	71.8	53.6	61.5
LARD	PER LB.	22.1	19.5	30.0	20.8	17.9	28.0
BUTTER	PER LB.	74.0	75.0	78.0	71.5	72.6	75.1
CHEESE, AMERICAN	PER LB.	53.0	53.0	60.0	52.4	52.3	58.7
COFFEE	PER LB.	51.0	71.0	52.0	53.5	73.9	53.1
TEA, ORANGE PEKOE	PER LB.	130.0	125.0	125.0	126.0	126.0	123.0
ORANGES, 216'S	PER DOZ.	-	29.0	27.0	-	38.8	39.6
BANANAS	PER LB.	14.9	14.6	14.9	17.0	16.9	16.7
APPLES, FRESH	PER LB.	10.2	10.0	11.0	9.74	9.19	12.0

FOOD PRICES SHOW LITTLE CHANGE

Prices paid by North Carolina farmers for some of the major foods as of December 15, 1949 showed only minor changes from the average prices farmers were paying three months earlier. Coffee advanced significantly during the period and butter, bread, and sugar were up slightly. Meat products, on the other hand, declined.

Compared with a year ago, prices paid by farmers for all the food items listed except sugar, coffee, and oranges decreased. Pork and pork products were down significantly from a year ago, with minor decreases recorded for the other items.

The table above gives average prices paid and comparisons for some of the principal food items purchased by farmers in North Carolina and throughout the United States.

NORTH CAROLINA MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION 1948 AND 1949

MONTH	NO. MILK COWS* ON FARMS (000)		MILK PRODUCTION PER COW POUNDS		TOTAL MILK PRODUCTION MIL. POUNDS	
	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
JAN.	358	355	299	325	107	115
FEB.	357	355	286	315	102	112
MAR.	356	356	330	358	117	127
APR.	355	356	372	385	132	137
MAY	354	357	405	426	143	152
JUNE	354	357	405	438	143	156
JULY	354	358	414	438	147	157
AUG.	354	359	419	420	148	151
SEPT.	354	361	390	380	138	137
OCT.	354	363	372	362	132	131
NOV.	354	365	328	337	116	123
DEC.	354	367	316	330	112	121
YEAR	355	359	4330	4510	1537	1619

* Milk cows in herds both dry and milked (does not include heifers not yet freshened)

1949 RECORD YEAR FOR MILK PRODUCTION

Reports from farmers and dairymen in North Carolina during 1949 indicate that there was an average of 359,000 milk cows (not including heifers 2 years old and over kept for milk but not yet freshened) on farms during the year.

This is an increase of 4,000 head from the 1948 average number and is the first increase since the decline that began in 1945. In contrast to the decline in numbers beginning in 1945 the yearly production of milk per cow has been on the increase.

Total annual milk production for all cows has, of course, increased at a lesser rate due to the decline in milk cow numbers, except for 1949.

WINTER OUTPUT (Continued)

the increased efficiency of the hen as an egg producer and it is difficult to determine which has been the most important. Contributing to the increase in the rate of lay are more careful selection and breeding to improve egg laying strains, better sanitation, improved housing and better feed and feeding practice.

Two important factors in the marked increase in the rate of lay during the winter months are widespread adoption of incubators and the use of lights in laying houses to lengthen the hen's "working day". Earlier hatching starts pullets off to an earlier laying season and longer days increase their feed intake.

Changes in egg production have benefited both producer and consumer of eggs. The income of poultrymen from eggs has increased in greater proportion than their egg production because they now produce a larger percentage of eggs during the months when egg prices are relatively high.

At the same time, a more even seasonal distribution of egg production has brought relatively lower winter egg prices to consumers. Consumers also are getting more fresh eggs during the winter than formerly. Storage requirements have declined rapidly. Holdings of shell eggs in 1949 were the lowest in 33 years of record.

FEED PRICES DECLINE SLIGHTLY

Average feed prices paid by North Carolina farmers for most high protein and grain by-products feeds showed little change during the month ending February 15. Corn meal and 16 percent mixed dairy feed prices were the same for January.

Bran decreased 10 cents per hundred and meat scraps dropped 50 cents per hundred while other feeds listed in the table below showed a 5 cent decline.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS FEB. 15, 1950
WITH COMPARISONS

FEED PER HUNDRED WEIGHT	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
	JAN. 15 1950	FEB. 15 1950	JAN. 15 1950	FEB. 15 1950
- DOLLARS -				
BRAN.....	3.30	3.20	2.90	2.80
MIDDLINGS.....	3.40	3.35	3.02	2.91
CORN MEAL.....	3.80	3.80	3.17	3.16
COTTONSEED MEAL....	3.45	3.40	3.84	3.76
MIXED DAIRY FEED:				
16% PROTEIN.....	3.30	3.30	3.42	3.38
18% PROTEIN.....	3.55	3.50	3.61	3.55
20% PROTEIN.....	3.80	3.75	3.73	3.65
LAYING MASH.....	4.85	4.60	4.39	4.31
SCRATCH GRAIN.....	4.00	3.95	3.72	3.71
MEAT SCRAP.....	6.30	5.80	6.17	5.88

FARM REPORT

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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MARCH 6, 1950

FARM REPORT

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NUMBERS AND VALUES OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY ON FARMS JANUARY 1.

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	NUMBER ON FARMS JAN. 1			VALUE PER HEAD			TOTAL VALUE		
	AVERAGE 1939-48	1949	1950 a/	AVERAGE 1939-48	1949	1950	AVERAGE 1939-48	1949	1950
FIRST LINE TOTAL FOR NORTH CENTRAL STATES CORRECTION FOR NORTH CAROLINA BELOW:	- THOUSAND HEAD -			- DOLLARS -			- THOUSAND DOLLARS -		
	NORTH CAROLINA								
ALL CATTLE AND CALVES...	35,353	35,058	35,744	73.70	147.00	133.00	2,644,227	5,147,764	4,761,806
COWS AND HEIFERS b/.....	372	372	387	71.60	131.00	128.00	26,932	48,732	49,536
HOGS, INCLUDING PIGS.....	1,204	1,167	1,120	16.50	29.10	22.90	19,668	33,960	25,648
HORSES AND COLTS.....	87	85	82	125.00	97.00	96.00	10,912	8,245	7,872
MULES AND COLTS.....	292	261	248	198.00	199.00	179.00	57,660	51,939	44,392
ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS.....	48	35	40	-	-	-	432	602	724
CHICKENS c/.....	11,791	10,847	11,087	102	150	135	12,311	16,270	14,967
TURKEYS.....	55	55	63	4.23	7.90	5.90	225	434	372
	UNITED STATES								
ALL CATTLE AND CALVES...	77,600	78,298	80,277	67.10	135.00	123.00	5,305,578	10,552,421	9,873,710
COWS AND HEIFERS.....	26,175	24,416	24,625	97.40	193.00	177.00	2,557,511	4,715,844	4,350,936
HOGS, INCLUDING PIGS.....	61,634	57,128	60,424	20.80	38.20	27.10	1,265,915	2,183,553	1,638,964
HORSES AND COLTS.....	9,054	5,898	5,311	69.00	52.30	45.70	634,884	308,682	242,879
MULES AND COLTS.....	3,450	2,348	2,153	126.00	117.00	99.40	429,968	274,012	214,018
ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS.....	48,112	31,650	30,797	-	-	-	426,714	543,862	548,248
STOCK SHEEP AND LAMBS...	41,829	27,651	27,064	9.11	17.00	17.80	367,175	470,460	480,641
CHICKENS c/.....	486,359	448,676	481,190	104	166	136	512,665	745,929	655,210
TURKEYS.....	7,056	5,540	6,120	4.47	8.70	6.24	30,738	48,172	38,193

a/ Preliminary
b/ Two years old and over kept for milk
c/ Does not include commercial broilers

NORTH CAROLINA

ALL CATTLE AND CALVES	670	657	710	55.00	104.00	99.70	37.497	68,328	70,787
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CATTLE NUMBERS (Continued)

an increase of about 8 percent in cattle numbers and 14 percent in sheep and lambs on farms during the year. Other livestock showed slight declines. This information was obtained in cooperation with the United States Post Office Department through rural mail carriers from several thousand farm reporters.

The number of mules on farms in North Carolina as of January 1, 1950, totaled 248,000. This was a decline of 5 percent from the numbers on farms January 1, 1949. Mules as a source of farm work power have been rapidly displaced during the past 6 years by mechanization in many sections of the of the State. The January 1, 1950 estimated number of head on farms is the lowest since 1919 when 246,000 were estimated on farms. However, in spite of the decreases of recent

years, it must be remembered that mules will continue to hold a place of importance as workstock on farms in North Carolina. This is particularly so for tobacco farms for which mechanization has been limited. Also, the large number of small farms restricts mechanization to some extent.

The number of cattle and calves on North Carolina farms on January 1, 1950, was estimated at 710,000 head. This was an increase of 8 percent compared to numbers on farms January 1, 1949, and was 6 percent above the 10-year average. The average value per head declined \$4.30 during the year. However, the total value of all cattle, at \$70,787,000, is about 4 percent greater than a year ago in spite of the decrease in value per head. The number of milk cows and heifers 2 years old and over at 387,000 head increased 4 percent. All other classifications showed increases except

for bulls. The most marked increase occurred in the number of all calves on farms which was up 17 percent from the previous year.

The number of hogs and pigs on North Carolina farms at the first of 1950 was estimated at 1,120,000 head, a decline of 4 percent from the 1,167,000 head on hand a year earlier and 7 percent less than the 10-year average. The value of hogs and pigs on farms January 1, this year was estimated at \$25,648,000 -- a decrease of 24 percent compared to a year earlier. This was due mostly to a decline of \$6.20 in the value per head for swine.

Chickens on North Carolina farms, January 1, 1950, were estimated at 11,087,000 head, about 2 percent more than were on hand a year earlier.

For the United States livestock and poultry on farms and ranches showed a net increase during 1949 for the first time since 1943.